

SECTION 20 - CARE OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY EQUIPMENT.

I. GENERAL. Respiratory therapy equipment has been implicated in nosocomial pneumonia. When standard exchange, cleaning, disinfection and sterilization procedures are used, the risk of pneumonia from contaminated equipment appears to be extremely low.

II. SPECIFIC.

A. Equipment Use and Cleaning.

B. All equipment used for the administration of oxygen is disposable.

C. All masks, nasal cannulas, large and small bore tubing and connecting tubing made of disposable plastic are to be changed every 48 hours.

1. All humidifier equipment is also disposable and will be replaced every 48 hours.

2. Pressure cycled and volume cycled ventilators have circuit tubing that is disposable. Circuits will be replaced every 7 days or when it becomes grossly soiled.

3. Disposable bacterial filters on ventilators can be removed after 7 days of the same patient's use or when the machine is disconnected. They are disposed after single patient use.

4. Ventilators are returned to Respiratory Therapy after use for cleaning. After cleaning with Cavicide, they are covered with a large plastic covering.

5. Ballard™ in line suction catheters are changed daily.

5. BiPAP machines are wiped down between patients with an approved disinfectant. Most flowmeters are disposable after single patient use.

6. Resuscitation "Ambu" bags are to be returned to CMS after use for terminal sterilization. Many ambu-bags used in the DHCS are disposable.

7. Respiratory Therapy Considerations.

a. Only sterile water is to be used for filling humidification reservoirs. Any water remaining in the bottle is to be discarded after refilling. Discard each container when empty and "spike" a new one. Never share between patients.

b. Condensed moisture in patient circuit tubing should never be drained back into the reservoir. The tubing should be disconnected from the reservoir, drained into a receptacle (such as a plastic wash basin), and reconnected to the reservoir. The receptacle should then be emptied and not left sitting on the floor.